

For Immediate Release

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**Global Indiana's "Eighth Grade Odyssey" Selected as Top Program
by U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy**

Indianapolis, IN (September 20, 2010); Global Indiana: A Consortium for International Exchange is pleased to announce their "Eighth Grade Odyssey" citizen diplomacy program proposal has been selected as a Top Program by the **K-12 Task Force** and the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy (USCCD) and as such will be highlighted as a key component of the upcoming U.S. Summit for Global Citizen Diplomacy, to be held November 16-19, 2010 in Washington, DC.

In preparation for the Summit, Task Forces in nine sectors – business, community-based organizations, development assistance, global health, higher education, international cultural engagement, international voluntary service, K-12 education, and youth service - were created to highlight ways in which organizations within each sector can expand existing initiatives and offer new and innovative programs to encourage more engagement of Americans in global citizen diplomacy. The Task Forces are co-chaired by experts in their respective fields and represent broad networks of U.S. non-profit, non-partisan organizations. Summit Task Force groups compiled and vetted hundreds of program submittals as part of the selection process, and will make presentations on the role of their sector in increasing U.S. citizen engagement in international affairs at the Summit in November.

As part of the criteria, the creative use of new technologies and the identification of international partnerships were highly encouraged. Each selected proposal focuses on one or a combination of major global challenges that Americans as citizen diplomats working collaboratively with fellow American and international partners can address.

The K-12 Education Task Force will address innovative and creative methods for developing globally competent students in American schools, by focusing on ways in which global education can be presented to millions of children beginning in preschool through secondary education. Selected organizations will showcase what has been accomplished in several states and demonstrate how quality global competency can be achieved through new collaborations.

Eighth Grade Odyssey is a unique program which will draw top middle school students from around each state to be trained in leadership, intercultural relations, and diplomatic protocol as well as some basic language lessons appropriate for the country they will visit. After summer camp training experience, the students,

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accompanied by adult chaperones, will travel abroad to experience another world culture first hand by visiting schools and staying in host families. By exposing young students to the world at large, **Eighth Grade Odyssey** will create young people who understand that people around the world are more alike than they are different, and that peace is possible through mutual communication and understanding.

Portfolio summaries of ten selected Top Programs from each of the nine sectors will be available at the Summit for all participants, including potential funders.

The U.S. Summit for Global Citizen Diplomacy is a national meeting presented by the USCCD in partnership with the U.S. Department of State, Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs. The Summit is designed to broaden the momentum generated from the work of the USCCD as a national resource base and network for Americans to be engaged as citizen diplomats, and two major leadership forums focused on the revival of citizen diplomacy as a critical component of U.S. public diplomacy and foreign policy strategy.

The Summit will be the first such meeting since President Eisenhower's People-to-People conference on the same subject 54 years ago, and will serve as the launch for a "Decade of Citizen Diplomacy" with a goal to double the number of American citizen diplomats by 2020.

A complete listing of the selected Top Program organizations, and detailed information about the U.S. Summit for Global Citizen Diplomacy may be found at: www.usc4cd.org/summit.

Global Indiana and the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy stand together in their commitment to the expansion and promotion of citizen diplomacy initiatives and urges their fellow Americans to join the effort.

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Global Indiana: A Consortium for International Exchange is a non-profit, non-partisan organization composed of educators from K-12 and post secondary institutions as well as other individuals from business and government. The Consortium advances opportunities for global understanding, cultural exchange, economic development, and international study through the formation of school-to-school and other partnerships with world nations. More information about Global Indiana is on the website at www.globalindianainc.org.

The U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy (USCCD) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization established in 2006 to promote and expand opportunity for all Americans to be citizen diplomats, and affirm the indispensable value of citizen involvement in foreign relations. Additional information about the USCCD and the U.S. Summit for Global Citizen Diplomacy may be found at: www.usc4cd.org